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(71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: FELDBAU, Ofra (IL/IL); 12 Avialyon Street, 52424 Ramat Gan (IL). FELDBAU, Michael (IL/IL); 12 Avialyon Street, 52424 Ramat Gan (IL).		
(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AUTHENTICATING THE DISPATCH AND CONTENTS OF DOCUMENTS		
(57) Abstract		
<p>Apparatus and method for authenticating that a sender has sent certain information via a dispatcher to a recipient is disclosed. The method includes the steps of: (a) providing a set A comprising a plurality of information elements a1, ..., an, said information element comprising the contents of said dispatched information, and said one or more information elements a2, ..., an, comprising dispatch-related information and comprise at least the following elements: a2 - a time indication associated with said dispatch; and a3 - information describing the destination of said dispatch, and wherein at least one of said information elements is provided in a manner that is resistant or indicative of tamper attempts by said sender; (b) associating said dispatch-related information with said element a1 by generating authentication-information, in particular comprising a representation of at least said elements a1, a2 and a3, said representation comprising a set of one or more elements, each comprising a representation of one or more elements of said set A; (c) securing at least part of said authentication-information against undetected tamper attempts of at least said sender. The dispatch relates either to transmission or to manual delivery. The apparatus implements the operations of the method.</p>		

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCY/IB 96/00859

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04L9/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP,A,0 516 898 (PITNEY BOWES INC.) 9 December 1992 cited in the application see abstract see column 2, line 34 - column 3, line 11 see column 4, line 24 - column 5, line 57 see figure 1 ---	1,27
A	D.W.DAVIES & W.L.PRICE: "SECURITY FOR COMPUTER NETWORKS" 1989, JOHN WILEY & SONS, CHICHESTER (UK) XP082828015 cited in the application see page 130, line 25 - page 131, line 28 -----	1,27

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentstein 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+ 31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lydon, M

Information on patent family members

PCT/IB 96/00859

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A-516898	09-12-92	US-A- 5022080	04-06-91

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